

Dear

On behalf of the three meeting organizers, UNESCO, NCLIS, and the National Forum on Information Literacy, I am very pleased to be able to advise you that the Information Literacy Meeting of Experts has been set for September 20-23rd 2003, in Prague, The Czech Republic.

We will make a final determination on or before August 1, 2003 as to total available funds from all sources, which will in turn govern the specific travel allowance authorized for each participant. In this regard, please bear in mind that we will give top priority to assisting participants coming from developing countries.

While our commitment to the meeting is as resolute as ever, our expected total available financing at this time is not completely adequate. Some participants graciously offered to allow us to utilize the stipend for their paper as an offset to travel costs. For that we are very grateful. *We urge you to explore the possibility of securing at least partial support from your own institution, and/or from other sources, to help us defray total travel and living expenses related to the meeting.* Please let us know if you are successful or not, and if so, the amount you have secured.

Please do not purchase travel tickets or incur other financial obligations for which you expect reimbursement before you receive further explicit authorization from us.

We sincerely appreciate your patience and forbearance in dealing with any problems the delays in scheduling this meeting may have caused.

As most of you probably already know, President Bush recently told U.N. Secretary-General Koffi Anan that the U.S. will rejoin UNESCO on October 1, 2003. The U.S. is, therefore, renewing its support of UNESCO's goals and programs, including the Basic Education for All initiative, the Building Learning Societies initiative, and the Information for All program. All three programs are very closely related to our Information Literacy meeting goals and objectives.

President Bush has set as a high priority of his Administration the *No Child Left Behind* program which is a program very closely related to the objectives of our meeting. Moreover, his current Administration budget reflects a significant increase for the education sector, one of the few increases outside of the defense and foreign affairs areas. The First Lady, Laura Bush, has also shown her unwavering support for education, both by her words and by her actions in many school, library, and other settings around the world.

In short, with the launching of the U.N.'s Decade of Literacy on January 1, 2002, the U.S. decision to rejoin UNESCO, and President Bush's continued high priority emphasis on education, we believe that our meeting is more timely, more relevant and more necessary

than ever; the expected results and outcomes will benefit every country in the world and every citizen living in what we now call The Information Society and the Internet Age.

I will write you again about making travel and other related arrangements. Meanwhile, please block your calendars for September 20-23rd.

Please direct any questions to Dr. Forest Woody Horton, Jr. at whorton@nclis.gov or you may telephone him at (202) 606-9200 (fax -9203). Or, you may also contact Dr. Patricia Senn Breivik who chairs the National Forum on Information Literacy, at (408) 924-2419 (fax -2800).

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Robert S. Willard
Executive Director
U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS)

P.S. All but two of the promised 35 papers are now posted on the NCLIS website, and some additional unsolicited papers have also been received and posted. They are all available at

<http://www.nclis.gov/libinter/infolitconf&meet/infolitconf&meet.html>